



PERSONAL COMPUTER-BASED AVIATION TRAINING DEVICE (PCATD) STUDY GROUP

Summary

The PCATD Study Group is a subset of the PCATD Joint Working Group (JWG), which is itself an advisory group to the U.S. Army Aviation Center Flight School XXI program. The Chairman of the PCATD-JWG is the Chief of the Simulation Division, Directorate of Training, Doctrine, and Simulation at the U.S. Army Aviation Center (USAAVNC).

AVATAR: Simulation-based Aviation Training.

ARI considers participation in this Study Group to be technical advisory service to USAAVNC. It contributes to Flight School XXI and will provide a vehicle to perform limited research into the application of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) flight simulation products to Army aviation training.

Description

Recent advances in technology have produced COTS PC-based flight simulation software that is both powerful and inexpensive. For



example, Microsoft Flight Simulator 2000 Professional Edition can be purchased for \$50 a copy. These PCATDs have been shown to provide valid introductory aviation training in the private pilot market, the FAA, and the U.S. Navy.

The U.S. Air Force is currently researching PCATDs for introductory flight training. The mission of the Study Group is to research how best to employ PCATDs in Army aviation training.

The Study Group has recommended three avenues of approach and subsequent small-scale concept tests. These are:

- ◆ Use PCATDs for self-study learning by flight students prior to Initial Entry Rotary-Wing training (IERW).
- ◆ Use PCATDs to enhance the richness of IERW ground school by providing instructors with a dynamic, interactive teaching tool.
- ◆ Use PCATDs to provide an easy-to-use and easily accessible practice simulator for IERW students.

Follow-On Efforts

The Chief of the Simulation Division has agreed in principle to these

three avenues of approach. ARI is continuing to provide technical advisory service to the PCATD-JWG.

For additional information, please contact Dr. David Johnson, Dr. John Stewart, Mr. William Barker, or Mr. Dale Weiler, ARI Rotary-Wing Aviation Research Unit, DSN 558-2834 or Commercial (334) 255-2834, or email johnsond@rwaru.army.mil; stewartj@rwaru.army.mil.